IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE FOR RAJASTHAN AT JODHPUR

O R D E R

Dara Singh Vs. State of Rajasthan

S.B.CRIMINAL MISC. PETITION NO.1734/2007

Date of Order :: November 28, 2007

PRESENT

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE H.R.PANWAR

Mr.Dron Kaushik, for the petitioner.
Mr.Ashok Upadhyay, public prosecutor for the State.

BY THE COURT:-

By the instant petition under section 482 Cr.P.C. the petitioner has challenged the order dated 23.10.2007 passed by Judicial Magistrate First Class, Pilibanga, Distt. Hanumangarh (for short 'the trial court' hereinafter) whereby while allowing the application filed by the petitioner, the trial court ordered to release the tractor bearing No. RJ-31-R 1315 in favour of the petitioner provided the petitioner furnishes a Supardginama of Rs. 2,00,000/- and a bank guarantee of Rs.50,000/- on certain conditions incorporated in the order. Aggrieved by the impugned order directing the petitioner to furnish the bank guarantee, the petitioner has filed the instant petition.

I have heard learned counsel for the parties.

It is contended by the learned counsel for the petitioner that the petitioner is the registered owner of the tractor in question which alleged to have been found carrying 70 Qtl. of Kikar wood "babul" in contravention of the provisions of the Forest Act and the petitioner is not an accused in the case. It is also contended that as per the Notification dated 19.1.1991 issued by the State Government, "babul" has been exempted from the forest produce under the Rajasthan Forest (Produce Transit) Rules, 1957 (for short 'the Rules, 1957 hereinafter). Learned counsel further submits that the petitioner is not in a position to furnish such a huge bank guarantee and therefore, in the facts and circumstances of the case, the condition imposed by the trial court to furnish bank guarantee of Rs.50,000/- is onerous and the vehicle in question may be released in favour of the petitioner on Supurdginama.

Rule 3 of the Rules, 1957 pertains to exemption from forest produce and provides that in exercise of the powers conferred under the proviso to rule 2 of the Rules, 1957, the State Government exempts transportation of forest produce of the following species for destination within the State of Rajasthan; namely Eucalyptus, Su-Babul, Ardu, Vilaiti Babul, Israeli Babul, Deshi Babul and Shisham.

This Court in Jeet Singh Vs. State of Rajasthan 2006 (2)

R.Cr.D. 274 (Raj.) without going into the question as to whether the goods being transported in the vehicle, in fact, is a forest produce or not as defined in the Rajasthan Forest Act, held that the condition of furnishing bank guarantee is onerous and accordingly the condition of bank guarantee has been set aside and vehicle has been ordered to be released on Supardginama.

Having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case, it is yet to be established in the trial as to whether the wood carried in the vehicle or transported, are forest produce or not, more particularly keeping in view the Notification dated 19.1.1991 as also Rules 3 of the Rules, 1957 by which the babul is exempted from the category of forest produce, in my view, directing the petitioner to give the bank guarantee of Rs.50,000/- appears to be a condition onerous and therefore, the ends of justice would be met if the vehicle in question is released in favour of petitioner on supurdginama.

In the result, the order impugned dated 23.10.2007 passed by the trial court is modified to the extent that instead of giving bank guarantee of Rs. 50,000/-, the tractor and trolley in question shall be released in favour of the petitioner on Supurdinama on his furnishing a personal bond in the sum of Rs. 1,00,000/- along with

one surety in the like amount to the satisfaction of the trial court with the stipulation therein that during the pendency of the criminal case, neither alienate nor transfer the said tractor and trolley and keep it in good condition and he will produce the vehicle in question as and when directed by the trial court.

With the above modification, the petition is disposed of.

(H.R.PANWAR),J.

m.asif/-